(c) India has not signed any Free trade Agreement in the last 2 years.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Good growth by cement industry

2754. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 207.81 million tonne cement industry in the country has witnessed a good growth despite a tumultuous financial year across most industry verticals;

(b) whether cement dispatches (including exports) for 11 months ending February, 2009 were at 162.89 million tonnes against 151.89 mt. during year ago;

(c) whether cement dispatches during past four consecutive months have seen a healthy growth; and

(d) if so, the quantum of cement production during year 2009 and what are steps being taken to improve it further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The capacity of cement industry at the end of 2008-09 was 219.17 million tonnes (large plants). The industry witnessed a growth of 7.9% during the year 2008-09.

(b) Cement dispatches (including exports) for the 11 months April, 2008 to February, 2009 was 163.05 million tonnes. The dispatches during the corresponding period of the previous year was 151.26 million tonnes.

(c) and (d) The first quarter of the financial year 2009-10 witnessed a growth of 12.4% with a production of 50.15 million tonnes. With the thrust being given by the Government for the development of infrastructure, housing and rural connectivity, the cement industry is likely to witness a growth of around 9% during the year 2009-10.

Incentive to revive industrial downturns

2755. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is planning to shell out incentives to revive industrial downturns;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how will it specifically benefit manufacturers and assist in industrial revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Several measures/ initiatives have been taken by the Government to insulate the domestic industry from the impact of global recession and stimulate domestic demand.

The measures to stimulate domestic demand inter-alia include reduction in ad valorem CENVAT duty, incentives to the housing sector with a view to give a boost to affordable housing, and sector specific initiatives. For automobile sector an accelerated depreciation of 50% on commercial